

ambition was to become a doctor, and a famous one too. Paul's university course was a series of brilliant successes: so that professors and students were unanimously of opinion that he was destined to make his mark in the world of medicine. But unhappily the more Paul distinguished himself in his professional studies, the more he deteriorated, from a religious point of view. Not indeed that he led a dissolute life, for the excellent training he had received in boyhood, and his ardent unremitting pursuit of scientific knowledge, precluded his lapsing into a career of crime. Indeed he was regarded as quite a model student, and he prided himself upon his power and self-control. But the only sure and solid foundation of all true morality and culture — faith — was entirely wanting in him. A long time had elapsed since Paul had entered a Church, or received the Sacraments or even said so much as an Our Father. He was filled with the spirit of scornful unbelief. "Bah!" he used often to exclaim. "Those are all nursery tales, invented by priests and obscurantists so as to keep us all our lives in leading strings." And he did not hesitate to declare openly: "There is no such thing as a life after death. No one has ever seen a soul: and no one has ever been known to return from the dead." With the same hardened scepticism Paul denied the existence of God and every other truth of Religion.

As regards his own life, he had already formed his plans. "The highest achievement," he used to say, "is to make one's life as pleasant as possible. One should labor to become rich and to distinguish oneself in the eyes of men. The sole duty to be fulfilled is to perform the business of one's calling. When a man labors skillfully in his profession, he needs not the so-called blessing of God. Prayer is altogether useless. Labor and success are sufficient in themselves to make men happy and rich, apart from God."

Paul had now completed his studies with great distinction and gained the degree of doctor. The fame of his achievements had preceded him, and so it happened that an offer was made to him which surpassed his wildest expectations. Paul Kunow was appointed head physician in one of the lar-